

Dec 11 1855

53. 17. 12  
1855

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE  
TO THE  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
OF THE  
TERRITORY OF UTAH  
DELIVERED IN THE CAPITOL, FILLMORE CITY, MILLARD COUNTY,  
DECEMBER ELEVENTH,  
A.D. EIGHTEEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY FIVE.

GENTLEMEN OF THE COUNCIL  
AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:—

In accordance with the adjournment of the last Legislative Assembly, we have met for the first time in the Capitol, in rooms erected for Legislative purposes at the seat of government. This part of the contemplated State House, being the south wing only, though it may answer for the present, has not those conveniences and that spaciousness and beauty which will be connected with the building, when finished in accordance with the original design. How far this may be accomplished through the aid of the General Government I do not know, but presume that it will make still further appropriations for that object, as the present investment is upwards of \$12,000 in excess of the amount appropriated. Until further aid is extended by Congress, this excess should be assumed and paid by the Territory, since it is manifestly unjust that the contractors, and others who have expended their means and labor for this purpose, should be obliged to wait the uncertain period of further appropriations, though the Territory would, probably, be reimbursed at some future time.

We are assembled for the purpose of considering the affairs of our young and thriving Territory, and of framing such laws,

ington, and the Territorial Surveyor General, Jesse W. Fox, where it crosses the Malade, and, by Prof. Pratt and Surveyor General Fox, where it crosses Green river and the emigrant road east of the last named stream. There was no accompanying party from Oregon, in either of the above cases, as the information was mainly desirable for determining the jurisdiction of this Territory at points where Oregon had no settlements within hundreds of miles.

The revenue, as appears from the Auditor's Report, which, with the Territorial Treasurer's Report, I herewith take great pleasure in submitting, for the current fiscal year amounts to \$17,348.87, showing an increase, over last year, of \$10,962.56.

This arises from an increase of property, and a higher per cent. assessed by the last Legislative Assembly. The total amount of increase, as assessed, is \$915,295, being over a third more than during years previous. There appears to have been Auditor's warrants in circulation amounting to \$23,401.28 of which 11,223.57

has been redeemed at the treasury, leaving as balance still in circulation	\$12,177.71
Of the current year's assessment \$6,279.10 has been received, leaving a delinquency of	\$11,069.77

Which shows, if it were all collected, an indebtedness of \$1,107.94 depending on future assessments for payment.

By the foregoing statement, it appears that the Territory is running a trifle in debt, still I do not presume that it will be necessary to increase the assessment of last year. I deem this situation of the finances attributable to the light assessment of the previous year, it being, for the whole Territory, only \$6,386.31, at one half the present rate.

The effects of this small assessment were not felt at the time, as the reports show \$2,118.28 more collected during that year than in this. Of last year's assessment \$3,004.81 have been paid during this, it is therefore obvious that almost the entire amount of the receipts at the treasury, for the year 1854, came from former assessments, hence it follows that if the assessment of that year had been kept good, there would now have been no falling off.

Payments for the suppression of Indian hostilities have been made at the Titling Office, which accounts for the entries of issues to that office in the Auditor's report.

It will also be seen that a large portion of these issues have been redeemed at the treasury; the unadjusted accounts and warrants on hand will liquidate the balance.

Since it is not to the payment of fees and salaries that the revenue of the Territory is devoted, but to public improvements and the development of the country, the people should feel willing to promptly pay their taxes, inasmuch as they directly, and almost immediately, receive the benefits thereof.

It has been proposed to open new channels of communication with this Territory from the east through the tributaries of the Missouri, and from the south by way of the Colorado. Doubtless boats, built expressly for the purpose, will be able to approach our settlements many hundred miles nearer than at present. Should it be in your power, by chartering companies or rendering other encouragement, to further any such enterprise, you will meet with my most hearty co-operation; I certainly deem it a subject worthy of your consideration.

Educational interests have flourished hitherto, with but little aid or encouragement from the Legislative Assembly. Should not this subject be taken under advisement by this Legislature, and some well organized system be adopted, which will confer the blessings of at least a common education upon every child, rich or poor, bond or free, in the Territory, and which will establish and keep in operation at least one school where the higher branches are taught?

I am aware that much has already been done and great good effected, by private enterprise, throughout the settlements generally. Though I am sanguine that no Territory, so young as this, can boast of so many or so good school houses and schools, still there is a lack, much remains to be done. The Legislature has appropriated comparatively nothing for this object, and the appropriations of land by the General Government are at present, and a great share always will be, entirely unavailable.

None are so much interested in this matter as ourselves, it would therefore seem to be almost imperative upon this Assembly to extend their most reliable aid and influence for the promotion of learning. And now, while we have peace and quietness in all

jealousies and sectional divisions and disunions, which embitter life, leading on to distress, perplexity and often sanguinary war, in place of peace, confidence, union and devotion to the best interests of our common country. What remains? Naught, naught but to apply the torch, and witness the terrible conflagration. To attain this ignoble consummation, hundreds, yea, thousands are stretching forth with frenzied, maddened zeal to be foremost in bringing to pass the direful tragedy.

Abroad, the struggle for freedom is hushed by the loud roar of magnificent war. Nations are contending for a gory bed, suggesting, at least, to the quiet observer to keep aloof from the distracting questions and controversies of the day, which so agitate communities and subvert the peace and quietude of neighborhoods, let whatsoever political demagogue seek to embroil him therein.

Be it our aim, so to direct our political affairs as to promote union, integrity, prosperity and independence to the Territory, industry, knowledge and truth to the people, thus shall we secure to ourselves peace and freedom, and transmit to our children those free institutions which we received as a rich legacy from our fathers.

BRIGHAM YOUNG.

Executive Department, U. T.

Fillmore City, Dec. 11, 1855.